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November 5, 2001

Date of Deposit

Andrew D. Stover

Name of Applicant, Assignee or
Registered Representative

A handwritten signature of Andrew D. Stover.

November 5, 2001

Date of Signature

Our Case No.: 659-787

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Price et al.

Examiner: To be assigned

Serial No.: 09/855,200

Group Art Unit No.: 1733

Filing Date: May 14, 2001

For: ABSORBENT GARMENT HAVING
A BODY CONFORMING
ABSORBENT COMPOSITE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and examination, please enter the following preliminary amendment in the subject application.

11/28/2001 AWONDAF1 00000039 09855200

01 FC:103

252.00 0P

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please rewrite claims 16-20 and 23 and add claims 33-46 as follows:

16. (Amended) The invention of claim 14 wherein said side margins are formed from said backsheet.

17. (Amended) The invention of claim 14 wherein said side margins are formed from said topsheet.

18. (Amended) The invention of claim 17 wherein each of said side margins comprises a first portion of said topsheet folded over a second portion of said topsheet, wherein said folded first and second portions form a folded edge defining said free edge of said each of said side margins.

19. (Amended) The invention of claim 18 wherein said each of said side margins further comprises a portion of said backsheet disposed between said first and second portions of said topsheet.

20. (Amended) The invention of claim 14 wherein said side margins are formed from said topsheet and said backsheet.

23. (Amended) The invention of claim 14 wherein each of said side margins has a first lateral width at a first position and a second lateral width at a second position, wherein said first and second positions are longitudinally spaced.

-- 33. (New) The invention of claim 1 wherein said absorbent garment comprises an end region overlapping said body panel, and wherein said side margin extends along only a portion of said end region of said absorbent composite overlapping said body panel.

34. (New) The invention of claim 10 wherein said elastic element extends along only a portion of said length of said absorbent composite.
35. (New) The invention of claim 34 wherein said elastic element has a length between about 5% and about 100% of said length of said absorbent composite.
36. (New) The invention of claim 13 wherein said second distance is about zero.
37. (New) The invention of claim 36 wherein said side margin is tapered from said second distance to said first distance between said second and first positions.
38. (New) The invention of claim 14 wherein said first and second end regions overlap said first and second body panels respectively, and wherein said side margins extend along only a portion of said first and second end regions of said absorbent composite overlapping said first and second body panels respectively.
39. (New) The invention of claim 14 wherein each of said first and second end regions comprise opposite corners, and wherein at least said opposite corners of said first and second end regions are connected to said first and second body panels respectively.
40. (New) The invention of claim 22 wherein said elastic element extends along only a portion of said length of said absorbent composite.
41. (New) The invention of claim 40 wherein said elastic element has a length between about 5% and about 100% of said length of said absorbent composite.
42. (New) The invention of claim 23 wherein said second lateral width is about zero at said second position.

43. (New) The invention of claim 24 wherein said absorbent garment comprises an end region overlapping said body panel, and wherein said side margins extend along only a portion of said end region of said absorbent composite overlapping said body panel.

44. (New) The invention of claim 32 wherein said elastic element extends along only a portion of said length of said absorbent composite.

45. (New) The invention of claim 44 wherein said elastic element has a length between about 5% and about 100% of said length of said absorbent composite.

46. (New) The invention of claim 24 wherein said absorbent composite comprises at least a pair of opposite corners connected to said bodyside surface of said body panel. --

REMARKS:

Applicants have amended claims 16-20 and 23 to improve the clarity and form thereof, and in particular to recite "side margins," which recitation has proper antecedent basis. None of claims 16-20 and 23 were narrowed or amended for any reason related to the patentability thereof. A marked-up version of claims 16-20 and 23 is attached as Appendix A.

In addition, Applicants have presented new claims 33-46 to further define the subject matter of the invention. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Applicants have enclosed a check in the amount of \$252 dollars for the fourteen (14) new dependent claims. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 associated with this Preliminary Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 23-1925.

Any questions concerning these amendments should be directed to the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew D. Stover
Registration No. 38,629
Attorney for Applicant(s)

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
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Chicago, IL 60610
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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

APPENDIX A

Applicants have amended claims 16-20 and 23 as follows:

16. (Amended) The invention of claim 14 wherein said side [margin is] margins are formed from said backsheet.

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18. (Amended) The invention of claim 17 wherein each of said side [margin] margins comprises a first portion of said topsheet folded over a second portion of said topsheet, wherein said folded first and second portions form a folded edge defining said free edge of said each of said side [margin] margins.

19. (Amended) The invention of claim 18 wherein each of said side [margin] margins further comprises a portion of said backsheet disposed between said first and second portions of said topsheet.

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23. (Amended) The invention of claim 14 wherein each of said side [margin] margins has a first lateral width at a first position and a second lateral width at a second position, wherein said first and second positions are longitudinally spaced.

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